UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/L.22
18 August 1994

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH
THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

Mr. Bossuyt, Ms. Chavez, Mrs. Daes, Mr. Eide, Mr. Hatano,
Mr. Joinet, Ms. Palley and Mr. Yimer: draft resolution

Minimum Humanitarian Standards

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Appalled by the massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law in recent conflicts, particularly those in Bosnia and Rwanda,

Considering that situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergencies continue to cause serious instability and great suffering in all parts of the world,

Emphasizing that all persons, groups and public authorities should observe and themselves benefit from respect for the principles of international law derived from human rights, humanitarian law and established custom, including the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience,

Conscious of the need to reaffirm and develop principles governing the behaviour of all persons, groups and public authorities in situations of public emergency,

Observing that the Commission on Human Rights in recent years has dealt extensively with situations of massive violations of humanitarian principles, particularly during the special sessions on the former Yugoslavia and on Rwanda, making it desirable to achieve further clarification of international standards in this field,

Having considered, at its forty-third session, the Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards, adopted by a group of experts at a meeting in Turku (Åbo), Finland, in December 1990 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/55),

Noting that the Declaration, having been adopted by a group of experts, does not in itself constitute an international legal instrument but aims at the reaffirmation and progressive development of international law,

1. Decides to transmit the text of the Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards to the Commission on Human Rights;

2. Recommends that the Commission examine the Declaration with a view to its further elaboration and eventual adoption.